WARNING

AGAINST

DEMPSEY B. SHERROD,

AND HIS PROPOSED

AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE,

AND

UNIVERSITY FOR THE BLIND.

Showing the true history and character of the man and of his pretended establishments.

BY

SAMUEL G HOWE.

With comments of other Superintendents of Institutions for the Blind.

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DEMPSEY B. SHERROD,

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It becomes my painful duty to act offensively against an individual of the large class of the blind. For it has been the chief business and hope of my life to elevate them in the social scale, to improve them in character, and to place them upon a level with the industrious self-supporting classes.

But this individual has for years been doing just the opposite. He has dishonored his fellows in the sight of many people; he has shamelessly professed to be acting as their agent; he has obtained money under pretence of providing books for them, and has spent it for himself. He has become a disgrace to the class, and a nuisance to the public. This bold, bad, blind man is named DEMPSEY B. SHERROD.

Many years ago I became aware of his selfish course, and wrote to him a personal letter begging him to desist

from it; but he went on from bad to worse, until I felt compelled five years ago to denounce him to the public as utterly unworthy of confidence and encouragement.

I sent a copy of my denunciation to him, and challenged him to bring an action against me for libel, pledging myself to appear in court and justify myself. My course was approved publicly by most of the Superintendents of institutions for the Blind in the U. S. But even after this Sherrod had the hardihood to append my name to a circular in which he solicited aid. It was a base forgery and a lie. In spite of this, he had the effrontery to send a copy to the Mayor of Boston, and to write to him requesting his signature to one of his petitions to Congress.

This irrepressible swindler still persists in his course, and has raised more or less money from various quarters; but has never yet given one page of printed matter to the blind.

A favorite project of his is to get a grant of money from Congress, for establishing a University and Printing House for the Blind. He has applied repeatedly for this.

My dear friend Charles Sumner took up the matter, and warned other Congressmen against the wolf in sheep's clothing. Among other things he wrote to me from Washington on the 27th of April, 1870, as follows:—

"The Sherrod bill will find small chance here. I have spoken to the chairman of the Committee on Education, to which it has been referred, and have given him your letter."

Sherrod's last attempt to get an appropriation has just been defeated by the timely exposure of his character to Members of the Committee to which his Petition was referred.

This defeat has cost not only a great deal of time and labor, but some money which could be ill afforded by persons determined to defeat his bad schemes. Several have made journeys to Washington solely for that purpose.

Several members of Congress wrote to me at different times for information respecting the marauder upon the public funds, and upon the purses of benevolent individuals.

I have written many letters on this subject. Some of these I now print in this pamphlet, which contains matter calculated to defeat Sherrod's schemes, and to protect funds intended for the blind, from his clutches.

Some eminent men and almost all the Superintendents of the Institutions for the Blind in the United States, who became convinced of his iniquity, requested that their names should be stricken from Sherrod's circulars, which they had incautiously signed. This was not done, however, and their signatures continued for a long time appended to his lying advertisements.

One of Sherrod's tricks is to publish himself as a member of certain respectable Associations, and to assume that they are in some way responsible for him.

Like other quacks he publishes this as a sort of card, which proves his respectability, since such use of its name would not be tolerated by any decent society, unless he were well known to it.

The last trick of this kind he played upon the Congressional Committee, to which his memorial was referred, presenting himself, in a printed circular, as connected with the Young Men's Christian Association of Washington; leaving it to be inferred that that highly respectable Society endorsed him, and favored his scheme. I wrote to the Society inquiring what foundation there was for this assumption, and the answer of the Librarian, printed within, exploded this baseless intimation, and shows that the Association not only did not even indirectly endorse him and his plans, but forbade him to refer to it.

I earnestly ask attention to both these documents. They show upon what false representations Sherrod claims

the honor and advantage of relations with honorable societies and individuals.

Oh Shame, where is thy blush! If Sherrod had any power to feel shame or remorse, he would hide his diminished head, and never more pretend to have the sympathy of respectable or decent men, but would take his hat in hand and openly ask for the alms which he has been getting under the name of contribution. A more arrant beggar never haunted the public; since Bartimeus stood cap in hand at the gate of the Temple.

The project for printing books for the Blind is an eminently pious and practical one. I entreat all who can aid it, by word or by mite, to do so. I pledge myself to do all in my power to have it used honestly and prudently. I regard it as did the Israelites the ark. I will smite down the arm of any one that dares approach it with selfish purpose.

I denounce DEMPSEY B. SHERROD as utterly unworthy of having funds or names entrusted to him, and I will continue to do so as long as he continues to injure the character of the great class of the Blind by dishonorable conduct, and to pervert to his own use one cent of money destined for their benefit.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

BOSTON, March 2, 1875.

LETTERS.

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

BOSTON, April 11, 1870.

MR. DEMPSEY B. SHERROD,

SIR: — I have received a pamphlet, made up, mainly, of certificates of persons whom you have persuaded that you are honestly trying to promote the education of the Blind in the United States, by printing embossed books.

The first, was one written by me, before I knew you personally; merely wishing you success in your undertaking.

This is a dishonest use of my name; because, if my opinion is worth anything to the public, you should print the one I formed after observing your course; and which I gave you, to your face, two years ago; to wit: that I had lost all faith in you, and in your professions.

You have been at work many years, professedly to print books for the Blind. You have raised thousands of dollars.* You have lived upon the fat of the land. You

* The Trustees of the American Printing House for the Blind, established in Louisville, Ky., are eminent and reliable gentlemen. There is much significance in the following passage from their last Report:—

"Mr. D. B. Sherrod acted as Agent of this Institution for a few weeks in 1859 and 1860; but he was not authorized by this Board to solicit donations, nor did he ever make a financial report to the Board, nor pay any money to the Treasurer of this Institution. The Trustees of this Institution deem it their duty to the public to state distinctly that no person has ever been authorized to use the name of this Institution, the name of this Board, or the name of any member of this Board, in connection with any printing institution for the blind, except the 'American Printing House for the Blind,' which, by the united action of several States, has been permanently established in Louisville, Kentucky."

have procured the passage of one of the most extraordinary acts ever passed by a Legislative body — the act by which you and your sister (who is not blind) are quartered for life upon the Mississippi State Institution for the Blind. An act utterly inconsistent with the object of that Institution, which is mainly for the education of young blind persons An act against which, the Trustees of that Institution have been obliged to protest; because it is one of scandalous favoritism.†

In all this time; with all these advantages; with all this money—you have not given to the Blind any books at all. On the other hand, you have done harm to the cause of their education, by raising false hopes; by bringing them into disrepute through your life and example; and by keeping honest and earnest laborers out of the field.

With due consideration,

Yours,

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

† The Trustees of the Mississippi State Institution for the Education of the Blind, in one of their Reports, say:—

"We would respectfully request the repeal of the act approved Aug. 12th, 1864, for relief of Dempsey Sherrod, said act placing said Sherrod permanently in the Institution, and also his sister, a *young lady with full sight*, twenty years old, to be educated and boarded by the State, free of expense so long as he may choose to enter himself as a pupil.

We know of no reason for granting such special privileges to Mr. Sherrod, rather than to any other respectable blind person in the State

Mr. Sherrod deserves great credit for his efforts in raising by subscription, &c., large sums of money, to print books for the Blind; but it has always been understood that he was well paid for his services as agent, by the Trustees of the fund so raised. If he has not been so paid, the Trustees should at once pay him a fair reward, out of funds now in their hands.

His claim for support is on the Trustees of the fund so raised, not on the State, which contributed very liberally to the fund, nor on the Institution for the Blind, *which has never received any benefit from said fund*, either directly or indirectly up to the present time.

Mr. Sherrod finished his education in this school many years ago. He has entered himself as a pupil, for the last five years. His sister has been educated in the Institution as a day pupil, two years, and for two years has been furnished with board and tuition, free of expense, making four years in all."

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

BOSTON, April 30th, 1870.

MY DEAR SIR:—I am surprised to see your name among those who endorse that potent *humbug*, the "*American Printing House* for the Blind," and its author, Dempsey B. Sherrod.

He is a selfish and unscrupulous impostor.

He has blocked the way to all honest attempts to get a library for the Blind.

Taking advantage of the ready sympathy which kindness excites in all beholders, he has *exploitered* his infirmity in gathering funds, which he does not account for, he has cheated subscribers, and fooled the friends of the Education of the Blind with false hopes, for ten years.

Since my attempt to expose him, letters come into me from Superintendents of Institutions for the Blind in all parts of the country, thanking me for having *dared* to do so.

You have unwittingly given the influence of your name in favor of a "Humbugging Scheme," which is merely doing great harm to the cause of the Education of the Blind.

You are at full liberty to make what ever use of this note you please.

Ever faithfully,

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

HENRY BARNARD, L. L. D.,

Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OFFICE OF EDUCATION,

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4, 1870.

DR. S. G. HOWE,

DEAR SIR:—I am just in receipt of your letter respecting Mr. Sherrod.

I was drawn into co-operating with him by seeing your letter of endorsement. On receiving a circular issued by you sometime since, I gave notice to parties interested to have my name withdrawn from the matter.

In great haste,

Yours truly,

HENRY BARNARD.

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

BOSTON, May 2d, 1870.

HON. C. W. SAMPSON,

President COLUMBIAN COLLEGE,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR SIR:—I have just received a paper, with your name at the head of those who commend to the public the scheme known for many years as "The American Printing House and University for the Blind," and who endorse its author, D. B. Sherrod, as a worthy man.

This surprises and perplexes me.

The facts known to me about him and his scheme are: that he has been, during ten or twelve years, gathering from the benevolent thousands upon thousands of dollars, nominally to print books for the Blind; that he has not given any satisfactory account of the disposition of those funds; that he has been continually promising us books; and that his great Printing House has produced nothing but pamphlets filled with certificates obtained from kind men, which he uses to collect more money.

Promises, promises; but no books,—not even a primer.

Meantime, I, and other Superintendents of Institutions for the Blind, who have been laboring to create a library for them, have watched Sherrod's proceedings anxiously. We gave him at first our best wishes for his scheme; but finally concluded that he was working wholly for his own selfish ends; that he had been parading and *exploitering* his infirmity; misapplying sacred funds, and cheating the Blind with false hopes.

We concluded that he was an impostor; that the scheme for a Printing House was a humbug; which would prove to be a block in the way of obtaining a Library for the Blind.

Other facts came to my knowledge which convinced me that he was doing harm to the cause of the Education of the Blind; and this conviction caused me to denounce him publicly as unworthy of confidence.

But you say, you have known him some years, and speak of him as an intelligent and earnest philanthropist, &c.

Can this be so? Have I done a grievous wrong, and denounced as a humbug, an earnest philanthropist; and he, blind?

I pray you possess me of the facts upon which you

ground your certificate. Show me my error that I may hasten to correct it.

But if in the search you should find that you have been imposed upon, and that you have lent your eminent name to uphold a scheme devised in purely selfish interests, which is injurious to the cause of the Education of the Blind, I trust that you will do something to put yourself *rectus in curia*.

Respectfully,

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

BOSTON, May 20th, 1870.

HON. S. P. CHASE,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR SIR: — Your eminent name has been extensively and efficiently used by one Dempsey B. Sherrod in raising funds for the American Printing House for the Blind.

I believe that the scheme of a Printing House and University for the Blind is a humbug; and that its author is a swindler.

I believe that he not only perverts funds which were given for a sacred cause, to his selfish purposes, but that he blocks the way of advancing the cause of the Education of the Blind.

I propose to expose him publicly; but before I do so, I wish to know if any of the eminent men whose names he uses, really endorse him and his scheme.

By replying to this, you will greatly oblige

Yours respectfully,

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

WASHINGTON, May 31st, 1870.

DEAR DR. HOWE: — I know nothing of Dempsey B. Sherrod, except that he came apparently well recommended, and seemed sufficiently accredited and representing a good cause. I am sorry to learn that I was misled myself; and that my name has been used to mislead others.

Yours sincerely,

S. P. CHASE.

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

BOSTON, Dec. 12, 1872.

HON. I. B. STORMS,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR SIR: — Your favor of the 9th is just received.

A great many years ago Mr. Dempsey B Sherrod stated to me that he was engaged in a project for printing books in raised letters, to be given gratuitously to the Blind.

I gave him a letter, stating that I wished success to the enterprise.

I afterwards became convinced that he was appropriating to his own use the funds which he got out of compassionate persons; in other words, stealing them.

When he next called, I told him so, frankly, and he has not since intruded upon me.

In March, 1870, I wrote to him, and made sure that he got the letter. I also sent copies to many persons.

To prevent his imposing upon the public, and misusing funds intended for the Blind, I publicly denounced him in the papers of his own State, as unworthy of confidence.

I have desired that he would bring an action against me for libel; in order that the matter might be brought in Courts of Justice and so exposed.

He is regarded by the Superintendents and Teachers of Institutions for the Blind, as a disgrace to his class, and as one of the enemies of the cause, which they all have at heart.

At the Convention of American Instructors of the Blind held at Indianapolis, August 1871, Mr. Sherrod's project of a University and Printing House was considered and condemned, by the passage of the following Resolution:—

Resolved, that this Convention, representing the Institutions for the Education of the Blind in the United States, have no confidence in the plans of Mr. Dempsey B. Sherrod, for the establishment of a University and Printing House for the Blind, in Washington City, and hereby disown all connection and sympathy with the same.

The Superintendents of several institutions charged Mr. Sherrod with unfair and fraudulent use of their names.

The Resident Superintendent of the Massachusetts Institution said:—

"I am happy to see that the schemes of Mr. Sherrod are unanimously disapproved of by this Convention. It is evident that the injury which has been done by him to the cause of the Blind, will require some time before it shall be entirely remedied, and I hope, now that our eyes are open to the mischief which has been done, the Convention will take such action as will not only be a fitting rebuke to Mr. Sherrod, and an unqualified condemnation of his conduct, but will effectually close the door to this sort of swindling in the future.

"If any one entertains a doubt as to whether Mr. Sherrod is guilty of the swindling that is charged upon him, it seems to me that the doubt will be removed, if he will consider that Sherrod has collected

large sums of money; that he is still collecting money; and that he has never printed a single sheet for the Blind in all these years. These facts alone furnish incontestible evidence against him. It is certainly clear that he has appropriated the money to some other purpose than that for which he pretended that it was collected."

The Convention held in Boston in August, 1872, was attended by the Superintendents and Teachers of twenty Institutions; and, although it was not thought best to make any public mention of Mr. Sherrod, since he had been quiet for some time, yet his project and his character were informally discussed; and not a man was found to say a good word for the one or the other.

You are at liberty to make public use of this letter, and you would oblige me by showing it to Mr. Sherrod himself.

Faithfully,

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

BOSTON, Feb. 16th, 1875.

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

GENTLEMEN:—Nearly half a century ago I conceived the idea of getting up a library of books in raised letters for the Blind. By the aid of societies and individuals, I printed for gratuitous circulation several important books; among others, the whole of the Old and New Testament. Several charitable Institutions and individuals joined in the same good work.

Recently I have learned with great satisfaction, that your excellent and influential Society has expressed interest in the cause, and shown a disposition to aid those who labor to promote it. I welcome such important collaborators, and I feel bound to communicate to them such information as my longer experience has given me; especially such as will put them on their guard against unwise projects, and vile impostors and swindlers. Your society has encouraged some such projects, and, as I am told, is now holding up the hands of at least one such selfish pretender.

It is very important that we should all receive public approval and support; and these can only be merited and received so long as our motives are pure, and our actions prudent and wise.

Your society in good faith, but ignorantly, has endorsed, before the public, a cunning, selfish, and wicked blind man, named Dempsey B. Sherrod, so whatever success he may achieve for his selfish schemes will be attributable, in part at least, to your influence.

His last project for getting an appropriation from Congress has just been defeated by those who know him, and who communicated their knowledge of his character to their Senators and Representatives.

But his policy and business is to exploiter the mine of popular sympathy with the Blind, out of which he gets his living, and he will take some new measures to work it. He will doubtless apply to your Society for aid to these measures, under pretence that they are religious and charitable.

Let me, therefore, tell you some facts about him, which are capable of proof beyond doubt

The unfortunate fellow has, with all his cunning and audacity, an immense amount of self-esteem, which makes him think that he can parade piety, zeal, and industry, and

make unsuspecting persons take him for what he pretends to be.

Here are some passages of his personal history: He was a pupil in the State Institution for the Blind in Mississippi, and became troublesome in the School by his insubordination, and notorious in the State as a busy politician, demagogue, and lobbyist. Among other proofs of his cunning and skill, is the fact that he actually induced the Legislature of Mississippi to enact a law in virtue of which he and his sister, who is not blind, should have the right of free support for life, in said Institution. There she lived a useless and troublesome life, doing no other work except that of promoting the schemes which her brother was always hatching for getting hold of money destined for the general good of the Blind.

This pretty piece of political jobbery succeeded well for several years, and he and she had free warren at public expense. But it was brought to the attention of a resolute magistrate, Governor Alcorn, who forthwith procured a repeal of the act; and the amiable couple were moved out of their comfortable nest. Sherrod then began to raise money by representing himself as an authorized Agent for collecting funds for the purpose of printing books for the Blind; but without authority from any incorporated Institution, or any respectable Society.

There had been several donations and legacies left for this purpose by charitable individuals, and Sherrod contrived to get a part of them. He got up memorials filled with falsehoods about himself, and prevailed upon benevolent persons of reputation to sign them, while he himself inserted the names of other persons without their authority. He paraded his Christian virtues, and got up Societies nominally for raising money for printing for the Blind. Kind people were found careless enough to lend their names to such false docu-

ments. He paraded these papers purporting to be from eminent individuals, bearing the titles of Excellency, Honorable, President and Divines, pretending that they endorsed and approved his schemes.

He thus collected considerable money; *but has never yet printed or procured books* for free distribution among the Blind, nor accounted properly for his receipts.

He openly and shamelessly printed and circulated the names of gentlemen upon his lying circulars, without their knowledge or consent. A few publicly announced that their names were thus wrongfully used, but most people disliked to denounce a poor blind man, practising what was perhaps only a pious fraud, and out of pity to him, they let the culprit go.

I, however, felt bound to expose him, in order to prevent him from getting more funds under false pretences, and taking for himself what was intended for the Blind as a class.

I moreover denounced him in the newspapers, and printed and circulated letters over my own name, which set forth his infamous character and course. I challenged him in a letter to prosecute me for libel, and I made sure that he received a copy. I would have appeared and made good my charge in any court; but, he has not, and probably never will stand a trial, during which evidence of his real character and actions might be made public.

I have thus given you some information which, as I think, will be useful for your guidance, and I shall stand ready to substantiate it before any proper tribunal. I am confident that all intelligent and honorable Superintendents of Institutions for the Blind will confirm my statement, and will sympathize with my effort to break up the career of one whose only claim to our sympathy is his bodily and moral blindness.

May light be granted to your Society, so that you shall

adopt such prudent and wise measures as will, among your other Christian work, promote the cause of printing for the Blind.

Faithfully yours,

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

ROOMS OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 23d February, 1875.

SAMUEL G. HOWE,

SIR: — I am in receipt of yours of the 18th inst., and in reply I beg to thank you for your information. Mr. Sherrod, some time since, had a circular printed giving our building as his address; but on our attention being called to the fact, we compelled him to discontinue the distribution of said circular.

We do not in any way encourage Mr. Sherrod, with the exception of allowing him to have letters addressed to our care, a privilege we allow anyone. Our work is in somewhat different fields, and I enclose our last Annual Report, which will give you a correct idea of the work in which we are engaged.

Yours, &c.,

WM. H. MORRISS.

COMMENTS

OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF INSTITUTIONS FOR THE BLIND.

The Superintendents of twenty Institutions for the Blind, assembled in convention at Indianapolis on the 9th of August, 1871, denounced Sherrod and his schemes in the most emphatic language.

From the remarks which were made by many of the members in support of a set of resolutions, which were UNANIMOUSLY adopted, I copy the following extracts :—

Mr. WILLIAM CHAPIN, of the Pennsylvania Institution, said: "Mr. Sherrod called on me again, and I told him I had been looking for some results from his scheme; but had now no longer any confidence in it, and I hoped that he would withdraw my name, and make no further use of it, in any shape or form. Not long afterwards, to my great astonishment, my name appeared in another circular, as, also, in some of the public papers. I was surprised and indignant, and wrote him a letter requiring him peremptorily, to take off my name from any recommendation or endorsement of his scheme; and saying that I had lost all confidence in it, and could not give my sanction to it in any manner whatever. Notwithstanding, my name to this day appears upon his circulars, and appeared quite recently in the Baltimore *American*.

I denounce the whole thing, and believe that the Convention should place the seal of its unqualified condemnation upon it."

Mr. F. D. MORRISON, of the Maryland Institution, remarked that, "Mr. Sherrod has, without my authority, placed my name on his 'Advisory Committee.'

I wish to say, emphatically, that it was done without my approbation or authority, and further, that Mr. Sherrod also used the names of many of our Directors without

authority. He has, also, collected money in the city of Baltimore without authority."

Mr. WILLIAM B. WAIT, of the New York City Institution, said: "As far as the New York Institution is concerned, I can say, that the President of the Institution, as well as myself, the former superintendent, and the principal teacher, sent to Congress our earnest protest against the proceeding, and disavowed both it and Mr. Sherrod. I do the same here to-day."

Mr. OTIS PATTEN, of the Arkansas Institution, said: "Mr. Sherrod has done incalculable injury to the Blind; and I think that our condemnation of his course should be in terms as strong as the English language will allow."

Mr. J. M. STURTEVANT, of the Tennessee Institution, said: "Mr. Sherrod has collected money that he has never accounted for. He told me himself that he paid his hotel bills by exhibiting his certificates, signed by gentlemen who are known everywhere. He presented these certificates, as he told me, to the keepers of hotels, and said that they must allow him to pay his bills by the presentation of certificates. In a similar way he gets passes over the railroads. Now if he has passes on the railroads to go where he pleases, and pays his hotel bills by the presentation of certificates, what has he done with the thousands of dollars which he has collected? There is a vast amount of money—we do not know how much—that he has collected, none of which he has ever accounted for in any way.

Now, is a simple resolution disapproving of the scheme of Mr. Sherrod all that is required of us, or must we strike at the man himself? For my own part, while I am in favor of the resolutions, and think they are good, I hope that the matter will be referred to a special committee, which will strike the man himself."

Mr. W. D. WILLIAMS, of the Georgia Academy, said: "If you will notice the resolution carefully, you will see that it does not condemn the man personally. It says: "We have no confidence in his plans." Therefore I move that we add the words: "or in his personal integrity."

APPENDIX.

The course of Dempsey B. Sherrod was condemned by the united vote of the educators of the Blind assembled in convention at Indianapolis, in 1871. This action is re-affirmed by the following circular, signed by the leading members of the profession :—

The undersigned have lost what little faith they ever had in Dempsey B. Sherrod. They believe him to be an untrustworthy man, and his pretended American Printing House and University for the Blind to be a baseless vision. They caution the friends of the Blind to beware of him, and not to supply him with means of carrying out his real design, which is to get a living, by giving him their names, or funds, without carefully assuring themselves that they will not be misappropriated.

Jo. H. Johnson,
Principal Alabama Institution for D., & D. & the Blind.

Otis Patten,
Sup't. Arkansas Institution for the Blind.

Warring Wilkinson,
Principal California Institution for the D. & D. & the Blind.

W. D. Williams,
Principal Georgia Academy for the Blind.

F. W. Phillips,
Sup't. Illinois Institution for the Blind.

W. H. Churchman,
Sup't. Indiana Institute for the Blind.

S. A. Knapp,
Principal Iowa College for the Blind.

B. B. Huntoon,
Sup't. Kentucky Institution for the Blind.

S. G. Howe,
Director Perkins Institution & Mass. Asylum for the Blind.

F. D. Morrison,
Sup't. Maryland Institution for the Blind.

J. L. Noyes,
Sup't Minnesota Institution for D & D. & Blind.

Mrs. S. B. Merril,
Ex-Sup't. Mississippi Institution for the Blind.

Samuel Bacon,
Sup't. Nebraska Institution for the Blind.

G. L. Smead,
Sup't. of the Ohio Institution for the Blind.

John H. Babcock,
Sup't. Oregon Institution for the Blind.

William Chapin,
Principal Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind.

H. L. Hall,
Sup't. & Financial Agent Pennsylvania Working Home for Blind Men, & Sole Agent for the American Printing House for the Blind.

J. M. Sturtevant,
Sup't. Tennessee Institution for the Blind

Chas. D. McCoy,
Principal Virginia Institution for D. & D. & Blind.

J. C. Covell,
Principal West Virginia Institution for D. & D. & the Blind.

Mrs. Thos. H. Little,
Sup't. Wisconsin Institution for the Blind.

We know nothing of our own knowledge of the facts; but from information received we are satisfied that the foregoing statement is true.

John Nichols,
Principal N. Carolina Institution for D. & D. & the Blind.

Egbert L. Bangs,
Principal Michigan Institution for D. & D. & the Blind.

JOHN D. PARKER,
Sup't. Kansas Institution for the Blind.

I know but little of my own personal knowledge of Mr. Dempsey B. Sherrod and his operations to raise money by donations from states or individuals for the purpose, *as he says*, of founding a Printing House & University for the Blind. I do know, however, that he lacks the confidence of all the well informed friends of the Blind in this country, and ought not, therefore, to be entrusted with any unds intended in any way for the benefit of the Blind.

JAS. MCWORKMAN,
Sup't. Missouri Institution for the Blind.

I do not fully know the evidence which has convinced others of the untrustworthiness of D. B. Sherrod, and do not speak on that point. Twenty years have elapsed since Mr. Sherrod began the collection of money to print books for the Blind. Thousands of dollars have been collected; but not one page has been printed. His repeated applications to Congress for aid to establish his proj cted Printing House & University for the Blind, have been rejected. Measured by benefit to the Blind, his efforts have yielded only cheerless and chilling failure. Facts pronounce with stunning emphasis against the practicability of his enterprise. The pur-uit of the impracticable for a while may be an innocent fatuity. Persistence in the pur-uit of that which accumulated experience demonstrates to be impracticable, is a monstrous folly. That prosecution of the infeasible which is conditioned on drafts from the funds of others to be applied to he support of the agent, (if not criminal imposition) is at least of questionable rectitude. I therefore unqualifiedly object to the further prosecution of his schemes not only as useless, but as tending to hurtfulness through the inevitable law of re-action.

P. LANE,
Sup't. Louisiana Institution for the Blind.

NOTE.—The name of one of the noblest and most efficient workers in the cause of the education of the Blind, who also desired to put a stop to the machinations of Sherrod, does not appear on the above list. Dr. A. D. Lord of the New York State Institution for the Blind died, lamented by all who knew him, before this circular reached him for his signature, which it would otherwise doubtless have had.